ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL.

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons, dated 16 June 1868;—*for*,

RETURN "of the Number of PUPILS attending the ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL who have been designated PRESBYTERIANS by their respective Parents or Guardians; with a Statement of the means provided for the RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION of PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN in that Institution."

(*Mr. Pim.*)

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed*, 26 *June* 1868.

358.

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RETURN of the Number of PUPILS attending the ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL who have been designated PRESBYTERIANS by their respective Parents or Guardians; with a Statement of the means provided for the RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION of PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN in that Institution.

Lieutenant Colonel *H. Wynyard* to Major General Sir *T. A. Larcom.*

Royal Hibernian Military School, Phœnix Park,
Dublin, 20 June 1868.

Sir,

20/6/68.

IN doing myself the honour of furnishing herewith the Return and statement called for in the House of Commons Order (dated 16th instant), copy of which you transmitted in your letter of yesterday to the Secretary, I beg I may be allowed to explain as follows :—

1. At this date there are in the Royal Hibernian Military School 407 pupils, of whom 26 have been designated by their parents or guardians, Presbyterians.

2. Since the institution was founded, 100 years ago, the Presbyterian pupils have always attended public worship as conducted in the Established Church, and religious instruction has been imparted to them by the chaplain who belongs to the Established Church. No parent or guardian has ever, that I am aware of, demurred to this practice, certainly not to me or I should have felt bound by the spirit of the Royal Charter of the school to propose other provision, inasmuch as the Charter runs thus upon the subject, viz. :—

"But we do hereby declare and ordain that every child of a Roman Catholic soldier shall, if it shall be so desired by the parents or guardians of such child, be exempted from receiving in any of the said schools or institutions instructions in the principles of the Protestant religion established in Ireland; and that every child of a Roman Catholic soldier, or the the child of any soldier belonging to any sect of Protestant Dissenters, shall, if it be so desired as aforesaid by his parents or guardians, also be exempted from the duty of learning or being examined in the Catechism of said Prostestant Church, and shall also be exempted from attending public worship as performed in said Church, if same be inconsistent with the religious belief of such soldier."

3. Although no parent or guardian has demurred to the arrangements in force here for the religious instruction of the Presbyterian pupils, Presbyterian clergymen have done so from time to time. A Presbyterian clergyman visited me lately on the subject; I explained to him the Charter and the practice, and I mentioned moreover that the chaplain here had expressed his willingness at any time, should it be considered advisable, to impart religious instruction to the Presbyterian pupils in the approved Catechism of their Church, a form of instruction for which he has the highest respect. The Presbyterian clergyman replied that the Presbytery had no objection to the doctrine taught by the chaplain, but it was the Presbyterian Church discipline which the Presbytery thought should be inculcated, and for which a Presbyterian clergyman should be employed.

As it appeared then that the instruction given these pupils was not "inconsistent

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sistent with the religious belief" of their fathers, I did not feel called upon to move in the matter, more particularly as the pupils leave this institution at the age of 14, and, if they join the army, as almost all of them do, find Presbyterian chaplains provided for them.

I have, &c.
(signed) *H. Wynyard*,
Lieutenant Colonel; Commandant, R.H.M.S.

To Major General
Sir T. A. Larcom, K.C.B.
&c. &c.

RETURN of the Number of PUPILS attending the ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL who have been designated PRESBYTERIANS by their respective Parents or Guardians; with a Statement of the means provided for the RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION of PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN in that Institution.

Number of such Presbyterian Children - - - - 26

STATEMENT:

The Chaplain of the Institution, who belongs to the Established Church, has always imparted religious instruction to the Presbyterian children of the Institution since it was founded, and its Royal Charter provides (at page 17) that, "The child of any soldier belonging to any sect of Protestant Dissenters shall, if it be so desired as aforesaid by his parents or guardians, also be exempted from the duty of learning or being examined in the Catechism of said Protestant Church, and shall also be exempted from attending public worship as performed in said Church, if same be inconsistent with the religious belief of such soldier;" but no such exemption has ever been so sought of the school authorities.

H. Wynyard, Lieutenant Colonel;
Commandant, Royal Hibernian
Military School.

Royal Hibernian Military School,
20 June 1868.

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ROYAL HIBERNIAN MILITARY SCHOOL.

RETURN of the Number of Pupils attending the Royal Hibernian Military School who have been designated Presbyterians by their respective Parents or Guardians, with a Statement of the means provided for the Religious Instruction of Presbyterian Children in that Institution.

(*Mr Pim*.)

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Under 1 *oz.*

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